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Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 3 January 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the press release issued today by the Government of the Argentine Republic on the anniversary of the illegitimate occupation of the Malvinas Islands by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 44, concerning the question of the Malvinas Islands.

(*Signed*) María Cristina **Perceval**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 3 January 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and Spanish]

Press release

On 3 January 1833, the Malvinas Islands were occupied by British forces, which evicted the Argentine population and authorities lawfully established there and replaced them with subjects of the occupying Power. The Argentine Republic immediately protested against that unlawful act of force, which continues, and did not consent to it at any time.

The Argentine Government reaffirms once more the imprescriptible sovereignty rights of the Argentine Republic over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, which are part of its national territory.

The illegitimate British colonial occupation, which has been going on for 182 years now, is aggravated by the provocation and defiance of the United Kingdom, which refuses to resume negotiations over sovereignty as directed by the United Nations mandate in force, established through resolution 2065 (XX) of the General Assembly and endorsed by nine subsequent resolutions, as well as by more than 30 resolutions of its Special Committee on decolonization. This mandate has been reiterated since then by several regional and biregional forums.

While the unlawful occupation of this part of the Argentine territory persists, the United Kingdom continues to perpetrate unilateral activities for the exploration and exploitation of renewable and non-renewable natural resources in unlawfully occupied Argentine maritime areas. This situation, together with the growing continued British military presence in the South Atlantic, has led to expressions of concern and rejection in the region and elsewhere.

Our region has been unanimous in rejecting the British military presence in the South Atlantic. Likewise, it has expressed concern about the above-mentioned unilateral activities through several declarations at the summits of the Heads of States members of MERCOSUR and associated States, of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) and of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), and at the Ibero-American Summit. Other regions have also expressed their support for the resumption of negotiations, inter alia at the South American and Arab Countries Summit and the Africa-South America Summit.

More recently, the Latin American Energy Organization and the Group of 77 and China have expressly recognized the right of the Argentine Republic to take legal actions, with full respect for international law and relevant resolutions, against unauthorized hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation activities in its maritime areas, which include the continental shelf.

Argentina recalls that 2015 will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX). That resolution was the first one to refer specifically to the question of the Malvinas Islands. Since it recognizes the existence of a sovereignty dispute, it calls upon the two parties involved to reach a settlement by means of negotiations, taking into account the interests of the inhabitants of the Islands.

As expressed by the United Kingdom in 1966 upon the commencement of the bilateral negotiation process on sovereignty over the Islands, which lasted almost two decades, the Argentine Republic remains willing to find a peaceful and lasting solution to the dispute in the same constructive spirit expressed during the years in which both countries studied several formulas to reach a settlement in compliance with the 50-year-old resolution.

Argentina welcomes with great satisfaction the full validity of the United Nations mandate and wishes to avail itself of this opportunity to thank the international community for the strong and various expressions of support. Likewise, Argentina wishes to renew its firm commitment to the peaceful settlement of disputes, international law and multilateralism.

Upon recalling the 182nd anniversary of the plunder, the Argentine Government reiterates once more its permanent and sincere readiness to resume the bilateral process of negotiations with the United Kingdom, as requested by the international community, in order to find a peaceful and definitive solution to the sovereignty dispute and thus put an end to an anachronistic situation that is incompatible with the evolution of the current postcolonial world.